UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 31)
16 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
A. Programme	31.1 - 31.9	3
1. General orientation	31.1 - 31.4	3
2. Overall strategy	31.5 - 31.7	4
3. Subprogramme structure and priorities	31.8 - 31.9	4
B. Subprogrammes	31.10 - 31.122	5
1. Agricultural and rural development	31.10 - 31.15	5
2. Development issues and policies	31.16 - 31.22	6
3. Energy	31.23 - 31.28	8
4. Environment	31.29 - 31.37	9

* The present document contains programme 31 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

90-12587 1620h (E)

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
5.	Human resources development	31.38 - 31.43	11
6.	Human settlements	31.44 - 31.56	13
7.	Industrial and technological development	31.57 - 31.64	14
8.	International trade and development finance	31.65 - 31.72	16
9.	Natural resources (including marine affairs)	31.73 - 31.83	18
10.	Population	31.84 - 31.87	21
11.	Social development	31.88 - 31.93	23
12.	Special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries	31.94 - 31.101	24
13.	Statistics	31.102 - 31.112	26
14.	Transport and communications	31.113 - 31.118	28
15.	Women in development	31.119 - 31.122	29

PROGRAMME 31. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Programme

1. General orientation

31.1 The legislative authority for programme 31 is derived from the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) as adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session (resolution 37 (IV)) and as amended by the Council at its subsequent sessions.

31.2 The Commission formulates policies, programmes and strategies for the overall economic and social development of the Asian and Pacific region and provides inputs for the global policy-making processes of the Organization. The Commission's subsidiary bodies review its substantive activities during their regular sessions and make recommendations to the Commission for its consideration and endorsement. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (ACPR) provides a consultative link between the secretariat of ESCAP and the members and associate members of the Commission.

31.3 The Commission's programme is drawn up taking into consideration priorities and opportunities for programme linkages in the context of the medium-term plan so as to establish complementarity, avoid unnecessary duplication and thus make the most effective use of available resources. The programmes of the medium-term plan are regularly reviewed by the concerned United Nations bodies in compliance with the procedures of prior consultation in order to ensure a fully integrated approach to the implementation at the regional level of priority global policies and programmes.

31.4 The ongoing and major emerging development problems in the region are the following: (a) the increasing number of least developed countries affected by natural disasters; (b) unique problems facing the island developing countries where development options are limited; (c) deprivation of the poor and of disadvantaged groups such as women, the elderly and youth; (d) trade imbalances and protectionism; (e) susceptibility of the social and economic structures of developing countries of the region to fluctuating demands and supplies of goods; (f) infrastructural impediments; (g) environmental consequences of population and industrial growth; (h) hunger and undernutrition; (i) inadequate provision of social services and shelter; (j) absence of effective institutional arrangements to facilitate and co-ordinate the flow of skilled labour and capital investment; (k) new problems arising from demographic changes; (l) high levels of internal migration and urbanization; (m) uneven patterns of economic growth and development; (n) rising costs of production and debts; (o) inadequate linkages between the agricultural and industrial sectors; (p) inadequate data for increasingly complex development decisions; (q) insufficient utilization of information technology; (r) declining prices of agricultural commodities; (s) critical problems of employment and meeting basic human needs; (t) a widening technology gap between the developed and developing countries of Asia and the Pacific, and between them and developed countries as a whole amid current rapid advances in new and emerging technologies; and (u) the grim struggle for survival in the war-torn countries of the region.

2. Overall strategy

31.5 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ESCAP. The Commission will continue to provide a forum in which the aspirations of members and associate members for economic and social development are articulated, and where policies and actions are designed to respond to new challenges and opportunities. Efforts will be continued to generate action-oriented technical co-operation projects and to develop workable and flexible modalities for strengthening regional co-operation, in conjunction, as appropriate, with subregional groupings and intergovernmental organizations, and to further strengthen the role of ESCAP as the executing agency for extrabudgetary-funded operational activities. In achieving the plan's objectives, the secretariat strategy will emphasize complementarity and effective implementation of multidisciplinary development activities, drawing on the strength of sectoral specialization in various substantive fields.

31.6 The ongoing efforts to liberalize international and intraregional trade will be increasingly promoted in order to facilitate the flow of goods and services, investment, technology and labour. Arrangements will be made to facilitate information exchange and technical and economic co-operation among developing countries, and between them and developed countries. To this end, existing relationships between ESCAP and other entities, including non-governmental organizations active in the region, will be further examined and expanded.

31.7 Co-ordination with other United Nations bodies takes place through various means, such as the establishment of formal arrangements, including special task forces in specific fields, and in that context various co-operative and joint activities are planned in substantive areas. Other means of co-ordination include participation in inter-agency meetings and cost-sharing in joint activities at the regional, subregional and country levels.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

31.8 In light of that orientation, the programme will consist of the following 15 subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Agricultural and rural development

Subprogramme 2. Development issues and policies

Subprogramme 3. Energy

Subprogramme 4. Environment

Subprogramme 5. Human resources development

Subprogramme 6. Human settlements

Subprogramme 7. Industrial and technological development

Subprogramme 8. International trade and development finance

Subprogramme 9. Natural resources (including marine affairs)

READEX FICHE

Subprogramme 10. Population

Subprogramme 11. Social development

Subprogramme 12. Special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries

Subprogramme 13. Statistics

Subprogramme 14. Transport and communications

Subprogramme 15. Women in development

31.9 Subprogrammes 5 (Human resource development) and 12 (Special programmes for the least developed and island developing countries) are designated high priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.10 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is Commission resolution 45/4 of 5 April 1989.

31.11 There is a need for documentation, evaluation and wide dissemination of information on issues of national policy and planning for agricultural production and agri-business development in order to stimulate action and to bring about adjustment of policies, planning and programming. In spite of the notable achievements of many members and associate members in various subsectors of agricultural development during the past decades, further efforts are required to deal with problems of productivity, nutrition and the environment, giving emphasis to improving crop yields with increased and balanced use of modern farm technology. Experience of the previous decades has consistently demonstrated that the rural poor have often been left out of the development process despite an overall increase in food production.

31.12 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) Further to improve food and agricultural development policy and planning through analysis, training and the exchange of experience with regard to the implementation of governmental strategies in those areas;

(b) To enhance regional and interregional co-operation on critical farm inputs, including their management and logistics, institutional mechanisms and related matters, through human resources development, technology transfer and other appropriate co-operative action;

(c) To improve the capacity of member countries to alleviate the problem of rural poverty by giving emphasis to productive organizations for disadvantaged groups, mobilization of local resources, participation of the poor and disadvantaged groups including women and youth, agrarian reform, rural investment, marketing and credit facilities and related matters in the spirit of the Programme

of Action adopted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, especially through co-ordinated collaborative efforts among the members of the United Nations Interagency Committee on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.13 ESCAP will continue to review the policies and prospects in regard to implementing food and agricultural development strategies in member countries. It will focus on ways and means of overcoming constraints to enhancing crops assessment systems and to the food supply situation through agricultural diversification and development of secondary crops such as coarse grains, roots and tuber crops. Better distribution policies, planning and management will be encouraged through regional consultations, study tours and exchange of visits. It will continue to collect, collate and disseminate relevant information through regular and ad hoc publications.

31.14 Critical elements of agricultural development needing special attention include the following: support for increased and balanced use of yield-increasing agricultural inputs and innovative institutional mechanisms for procurement, supply, marketing and distribution of these inputs. ESCAP will design, through its ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific, a series of intercountry activities including information services and training in the fertilizer sector. The agricultural requisites scheme for Asia and the Pacific will continue to promote information on and safe use of agro-pesticides as support to the implementation of the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Encouragement and support to other critical inputs, such as improved varieties of seeds and better quality irrigation water, would also continue to exert critical influence on the improvement of farm sector productivity.

31.15 Continued emphasis will be given to the rural poor and disadvantaged groups (small farmers, tenants, landless labourers, rural women) at the local level. Through planning and implementation of selected multidisciplinary country projects, realistic and innovative approaches to integrated development will be tested. Local planners, group leaders of rural and other motivators will be trained. Analytical studies, study tours and seminars on mobilization of local resources, including innovative rural credit delivery and recovery, and marketing systems, rural employment and effective management of decentralized rural programmes will be pursued.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

31.16 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is derived from the reports approved by the Commission (E/ESCAP/168, paras. 36 and 40; E/1980/26-E/ESCAP/188, paras. 467-474 and annex I; E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, paras. 290-291 and 294; and E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, para. 180).

31.17 Vast changes that are occurring in the world economy and in the Asian and Pacific region have given rise to new challenges and opportunities in fostering further growth and economic co-operation in the region. The ESCAP region has achieved high growth rates over the past three decades. It is generally regarded

as a most dynamic region and is expected to play an important role in maintaining the momentum of growth in the world economy. The extent to which such expectations are likely to be realized and how widely growth is shared among the region's developing countries will depend considerably on the framing and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies that are in conformity with the changing times. Towards this end policy options will be considered and analysed that countries could adopt, either individually or collectively, to take advantage of opportunities for further growth and economic co-operation in the region, as well as to seek solutions to common problems and emerging challenges in the 1990s.

31.18 In particular, the objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To analyse the changing nature of the challenges and opportunities that the economies of the region will need to take into account in the pursuit of their economic and social development goals, and to evaluate the strategies and policies adopted at the national, regional and global levels in that regard;

(b) To provide assistance in the formulation and implementation of subregional, regional and international co-operative measures to deal with the emerging issues and to analyse the implications of structural changes in the world economy and the increasingly complex nature of interdependence among nations;

(c) To disseminate up-to-date information and systematic analyses of developments, policies and planning in Asian and Pacific economies, based on a common analytical framework and a uniform statistical base and in the perspective of global and regional economic trends;

(d) To assist member countries in formulating and implementing effective development plans through the application of appropriate development planning methods and models.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.19 Studies focusing on the articulation of the region's main economic and social concerns will be undertaken to assist in the implementation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The secretariat will also continue its work on the long-term development issues facing the region as mandated by the Commission in its Declaration on the fortieth anniversary of ESCAP (Commission resolution 259 (XLIII)) and will carry out in-depth studies and reports on selected topics.

31.20 Major efforts will continue to be devoted to the publication of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific and to organizing seminars on the development experience of developing countries of the region. Furthermore, the secretariat intends to strengthen the statistical base of information on economic and social developments and the analytical sophistication of the surveys and studies relating to those developments. In view of the region's diversity, more attention will be directed toward the adoption of a differentiated approach in analysing the developments of specific groups of countries. In-depth studies of different groups of countries will be undertaken as part of the Survey or as a separate exercise.

31.21 With regard to development planning methods and modelling, a measure of success has been achieved in assisting the construction of economy-wide econometric models for major economies of the ESCAP region and of linking them to provide short- and medium-term forecasts. While continuing its work on short- and medium-term forecasting, the secretariat intends to give more attention to long-term planning problems. In addition, greater emphasis will be placed on incorporating in economic models such issues as human resources development, poverty and income distribution, demographic variables, environmental protection and policy issues in foreign trade and capital flows, as well as the problems of fiscal and financial planning that will have to play an increasing role in the mobilization of resources for development.

31.22 The undertaking of investigations and studies on economic problems and developments, as well as the collecting, evaluating and disseminating of economic information, is mandated by the terms of reference of the Commission and forms an important part of the work of the secretariat.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ENERGY

(a) Objectives

31.23 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from the reports of the Commission on its forty-fourth session, (E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, paras. 414-418) and on its forty-fifth session (E/1989/33-E/ESCAP/693, paras. 401-405).

31.24 The major problems in the field of energy lie in the management of the energy sector. Demand-side management needs to be better appreciated, energy conservation and the efficient utilization of energy require much more attention, and mitigation of negative environmental impact warrants incorporation into energy plans. The plight of the rural and urban poor, in their lack of access to clean energy and hence to a higher quality of life, remains unresolved. All those issues require the solutions of such problems as inadequate energy policies, lack of trained manpower in energy and lack of information on energy demand and energy technology. Improved collaboration between developed and developing countries in addressing those specific problems will greatly contribute to their solution.

31.25 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To formulate and implement appropriate policies of energy development and energy management in order to achieve efficient energy utilization, to find energy resources that will substitute for oil to as large an extent as possible, and to supply equitable amounts of energy, while protecting the regional and global environment;

(b) To promote regionally co-ordinated national energy plans in the context of overall economic development plans with adequate consideration of environmentally sound and sustainable development strategies;

(c) To assist developing countries of the region in strengthening their national capability to conduct policy analyses and to prepare and carry out comprehensive energy development and energy management programmes. To this end, technical co-operation programmes will be developed and implemented, the main aim of which is to train, upgrade and keep up to date the analysts and planners who assist decision makers in developing member countries.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.26 The secretariat will continue its efforts to assist member countries in improving energy data and to build upon the work of data-base development and sectoral energy demand studies of the Regional Energy Development Programme. The programme will expand into areas such as scenario generation and forecasting, interactions of the macro-economy with energy, domestic energy pricing and conservation, electric power system planning, long-run marginal costs, new and renewable sources of energy, and rural energy planning. The availability of high-powered micro-computers has made sophisticated planning instruments and models available to energy planners. Studies involving those methodologies will be conducted and exchanges of experiences will be carried out.

31.27 Training courses, including those on planning methodologies, will be conducted in association with other international organizations and sponsors. Workshops will be held to discuss progress on the various stages of the studies, and regional seminars will be organized to discuss and report important milestones.

31.28 Studies on certain topics of common interest will be conducted on a region-wide basis. Such topics will include the impact of fossil fuels on global warming, technology and policy options in mitigating global environmental concerns, research and development strategies, long-term supply optimization studies, and strategies for application of technologies involving new and renewable sources of energy. Activities within all of these areas will be formulated according to expressed needs, through the process of formulating the biennial work programme.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. ENVIRONMENT

(a) Objectives

31.29 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 and Commission resolution 267 (XLIV).

31.30 There is a growing awareness throughout the Asian and Pacific region that serious threats to the environment are being imposed by unsustainable and unbalanced development activity. Such threats include unhealthy village and urban environments (lack of nutrition, water supply, sanitation, fuelwood and fodder), rapid desertification and deforestation, the loss of biological diversity, pollution of the air, lakes, rivers, oceans and seas, changes in the earth's climate, a rise in the sea level, and atmospheric deterioration. This environmental degradation endangers all species, and undermines the well-being of the region's population.

31.31 The Commission has adopted the principle of sound and sustainable development, with an emphasis on meeting basic needs and making possible a life of dignity in a viable environment. The Commission has recognized that, while the primary responsibility for promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development rests at the national level, the concept is an interdisciplinary one that requires the development of strategies that anticipate all environmental problems and that can be implemented through co-operative action at the international, regional and national levels. Such efforts should recognize the economic disparities between nations and peoples. Environmental protection should be integrated into such areas as trade, development, energy, transport, agriculture and economic planning.

31.32 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To inform and educate decision makers and planners in the various development sectors, and help them integrate principles of sustainable development into the planning, design and implementation of their development programmes;

(b) To seek improved institutional structures, public sector administrative arrangements, support for community organizations, communications with industries, and public hearing processes;

(c) To identify and help implement energy conservation strategies and to facilitate the transfer to the developing countries of environmentally sound technology.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.33 The secretariat will promote regional co-operation through an interdisciplinary approach involving joint institutional and investment action at the regional level, human resources development, development and transfer of environmentally benign technology, integration of environmental considerations into industrial and urban development processes, promotion of awareness at the local level, and the formulation of comprehensive national and regional environmental planning. Special attention will be paid to strengthening the secretariat's interaction with other environmental institutions active in the region, particularly those involved in trade, investment, environmental administration in both urban and rural contexts, social development, energy conservation, and technology innovation and transfer. Interaction with non-governmental organizations, particularly those involving vulnerable groups such as women and youth, will be strengthened, while existing ESCAP networks dealing with these matters and others, such as the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific, and the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists, will continue to be supported. Codes of conduct for human behaviour as regards the environment will be developed and put into practice at the national and local levels in close co-operation with Governments, as well as through non-governmental, religious, cultural and environmental organizations, and with assistance from Governments and such organizations.

31.34 The incorporation of environmental considerations into the development planning processes of countries of the Asian and Pacific region will be continued, with an emphasis on establishing linkages between government information systems, natural resource accounting methods, development of environmental statistical frameworks, and the incorporation of such statistics into spatial and national economic models. The impact of trade on the environment and, consequently, on national economic and social performance will also be studied.

31.35 Work on management and protection of marine ecosystems will continue. National agencies and institutions concerned with the planning, management, research and monitoring of the coastal and marine environment will be assisted through increased information flows, expanded regional co-operation and assistance in the implementation of coastal environmental management plans for sustainable development. Work on terrestrial ecosystems will include support in the implementation of field and demonstration projects, strengthening research and training capabilities on desertification control, especially the assessment,

monitoring and mapping of desertification, and dissemination of information through organizations working at local levels to raise public awareness.

31.36 Efforts will be made, in conjunction with agencies such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the World Bank to strengthen local capabilities for the conservation and management of critical ecosystems, including forests, wetlands and marine areas. Conservation priorities will be identified and local training needs specified. A regional approach to improving training capacity will be developed.

31.37 Regional follow-up of the findings and recommendations of the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (General Assembly resolution 42/186, annex) will be undertaken. Technical co-operation and advisory services on promoting environmentally sound and sustainable development, institutional problems relating to the environment, energy conservation, and environmental technology will be provided in co-operation with relevant agencies such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank. Studies and investigations will also be carried out in the areas of management of toxic and hazardous wastes and prevention of chemical accidents, taking fully into account the work of organizations such as UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in those areas.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.38 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Commission resolutions 260 (XLIII), 263 (XLIII), 266 (XLIV), 273 (XLIV), 274 (XLIV), and 45/3.

31.39 The human factor plays a decisive role in the development process; at the same time human beings are the intended beneficiaries of development. This supply-demand relationship places human resources at the centre of the development process. There has been a tendency to lose sight of that basic element as development efforts have turned increasingly to technical responses to immediate crises. In an effort to redress the imbalance, the Governments of the region, through the adoption of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (see Commission resolution 274 (XLIV)), have given voice to the urgent need to devise and execute strategies, policies, plans and programmes for human resources development. In order for Governments to develop effective approaches to human resources development, assistance will be required to strengthen their policy-making, planning and programming capabilities with respect to all aspects of human resources development, including employment and manpower development, science and technology, and quality of life. The integrated, intersectoral nature of human resources development requires, furthermore, the provision of assistance to ensure that human resources development planning and programming systems at the national, subregional and regional levels are effectively co-ordinated.

31.40 The objective of the subprogramme will be to provide support to national, subregional and regional efforts to devise and execute policies, plans and programmes of human resources development as an integrated approach to upgrading the human resources of the region, in accordance with the framework contained in

the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region. The aims of that support will be the following:

(a) To assist Governments in devising suitable policy frameworks and strengthening institutional mechanisms for the adoption of a co-ordinated approach to human resources development policy, planning and programming, and towards those ends to activate a regional network of national focal points to co-ordinate the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development;

(b) To ensure that a comprehensive and consistent body of information is available to Governments as a basis for human resources development policy-making, planning and programming;

(c) To promote technical co-operation among developing countries through the exchange of relevant experience and information, as well as technical expertise, on national approaches and activities for improved human resources development policy-making, planning and programming.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.41 During the plan period, activities will focus on institutional networking, intergovernmental forums, research, advisory services and technical co-operation through training workshops and pilot projects, and information collection and dissemination. A regional network of national focal points in Asia and the Pacific will be established to support and monitor the implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action at the national and regional levels. Advisory services will be rendered, and regional and subregional meetings will be convened to strengthen the role of the national focal points as national co-ordinating bodies for policy-making, planning and programming in human resources development. Studies will be conducted on various dimensions of human resources development and their implications for intersectoral policy-making, planning and programming for human resources development. A survey of the quality of life as an aspect of human resources development will be conducted as one means of assessing the efficacy of development policies and programmes in the region.

31.42 Information networking of national focal points for human resources development will be initiated in 1992 to facilitate the exchange of relevant information among ESCAP countries. A comprehensive data base on human resources development will be developed. A newsletter containing information on national approaches and activities in human resources development will be published and disseminated on a regular basis.

31.43 Programmes to upgrade the region's human resources will continue to be conducted in various sectors, including agriculture, development planning, energy, environment, human settlements, industry, population, science and technology, social development, statistics, trade, transport and communications, and water resources development. Attention will continue to be focused on the needs of special target groups, such as women, youth, the rural landless and disabled persons, to develop their skills.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

31.44 The legislative mandate of this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 37/221, 41/190, 42/191 and 43/181.

31.45 In recognition of the fact that very few Governments of developing countries are able by themselves to provide adequate shelter, all other potential contributors to the human settlements development process must be mobilized. That can be accomplished through the repeal of negative control measures, rigid and inappropriate regulations and other instruments that present obstacles to broad participation in the shelter delivery process.

31.46 The objectives of the subprogramme are to promote information dissemination and public participation, to support national action to establish appropriate national shelter strategies, in accordance with the objectives of the Global Strategy for Shelter by the Year 2000 (General Assembly resolution 42/191, annex), to take special account of disadvantaged groups of society and cater for the needs of men and women equally in both urban and rural areas, and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable settlement planning and management, appropriate utilization of natural resources and innovative use of indigenous renewable resources.

31.47 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To help improve the quality of life and generate employment opportunities for the economically disadvantaged and to promote environmentally sound and sustainable development of human settlements;

(b) To promote the mobilization of all potential resources of every sector of society for human settlements development;

(c) To help strengthen institutions necessary for the orderly, efficient and sustainable provision and management of human settlements, particularly those with new responsibilities at the lower levels.

(b) Course of action by the secretariat

31.48 To achieve those objectives, the work of the secretariat will consist of the following three elements of human settlements development:

(a) Integrated settlements policies and strategies;

(b) Shelter, infrastructure and land;

(c) Local and community-based institutions in settlement management.

31.49 Strategies will be developed for balanced population distribution and growth policies through encouragement of the development of rural centres with non-farm employment opportunities and the development of secondary cities. Implementation of the strategies will include training, dissemination of information and exchange of expertise on tested pragmatic approaches.

31.50 Efforts will be made to strengthen local institutions by developing their human resources and their capacity to carry out the development functions. In this connection, community-based organizations, women's groups and non-governmental organizations will be supported through the exchange of experience, training and assistance in implementing development activities.

31.51 The efforts of national Governments in developing strategies to help their people attain adequate shelter by the year 2000 will be supported. To achieve this goal the productive capacities of all sectors with a potential for delivery of components of human settlements will have to be mobilized through seminars, workshops, guidelines, dissemination of information and assistance in implementing innovative methods and techniques.

31.52 Support will be provided for the development of mechanisms for the regularization of land already occupied by low-income groups without tenure and of delivery systems of land for new settlements. Those strategies will be adopted both in rural and urban areas, because landlessness in rural areas has been the driving force for people to move into the cities of some countries in the region.

31.53 To achieve the goal of shelter for all by the year 2000, member countries will have to make radical changes in credit procedures. It has been recognized that informal community-based financial mechanisms can be strengthened and systematized to provide credit that meets the terms that the low-income households can provide. Following that, innovative community-based housing finance mechanisms will be promoted through studies of successful cases in the region, the dissemination of the results of those studies and the provision of guidelines and training.

31.54 Local bodies that set standards and specifications on housing and credit institutions will be encouraged to promote the use of improved indigenous technologies and materials that are accessible to people in the urban and rural areas.

31.55 Special measures will be taken to promote the role of community-based organizations, including women's organizations, and to encourage co-ordinated action between local authorities and community-based organizations for the improvement of human settlements.

31.56 The network of local authorities and non-governmental organizations will continue to receive support and assistance in the implementation of its activities. Those activities will be further expanded to cover the exchange of community members and women from low-income settlements of the region.

SUPPROGRAMME 7. INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.57 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Commission resolutions 235 (XL), 241 (XLI), 256 (XLII) and 274 (XLIV).

31.58 The developing Asian and Pacific region, despite disparities in industrial and technological developments at national levels, has achieved an impressive economic and industrial performance during the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the

countries of the region have improved their industrial performance through a strengthening of domestic demand as well as through increased penetration into the international markets. Several countries have successfully improved their technological levels and have emerged as internationally competitive suppliers of manufactured products. The adverse external economic environment, increasing difficulties with regard to transfer of technology, and restrictions in international markets, as well as slow growth in domestic demand, have created new challenges to the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.

31.59 The developing countries of the region need to take measures to maintain and improve their industrial and technological development. The fast rate of technological change in industrialized countries will require flexible and timely adjustment by developing countries in industrial and technological policy responses if the technologically under-equipped developing countries are to maintain and improve their position in the global structure of industrial production.

31.60 It is essential that those countries, which have the potential for increased production of manufactured goods, endeavour to improve their competitiveness in terms of price and quality of products through the use of new and emerging technologies and by improving their manpower skills for the utilization of advanced technologies in their industrial production processes in order to compete effectively internationally. It is essential to develop policy and infrastructure measures for (a) improved and efficient mechanisms for technology transfer and adaptation, (b) new mechanisms of financing to attract additional finance and industrial investment, (c) strategies to improve the economic relationship between countries of the region in order to expand opportunities for trade among them and to encourage a complementary industrial structure, (d) strengthening of existing and establishment of new facilities to encourage more foreign direct investment in order to contribute to national industrialization efforts and technological enhancements while minimizing the possible negative impact, (e) examination of crucial factors for safeguarding the sustainability of industrial growth and technological capability, and the policies and issues to be taken into account for conservation and efficient utilization of resources, and (f) protection of the environment during the course of industrialization process and technological progress.

31.61 The objective of the subprogramme is to assist the developing member countries of the region and enable them to accelerate the pace of industrialization through the modernization of their industrial structures and the enhancement of technological capabilities for meeting competitively the domestic demand and for exports of manufactured products. It aims at providing assistance in institutional reforms and strengthening of infrastructural facilities for industrial and technological development, including human resources development, to meet the requirements of adaptation to new and emerging technologies.

31.62 Another goal is to strengthen and supplement national efforts by providing opportunities to share experiences in industrial growth and technological enhancement, promoting technical and economic co-operation in industrial and technological research and training, developing methodologies and policy guidelines, assisting member countries in re-orienting their strategies towards sustainability of their industrial and technological development process, and disseminating information to member countries on global, regional and subregional developments in matters related to industry and technology.

(b) Course of action by the secretariat

31.63 Programmes of assistance will be established; technical advisory services will be provided; intergovernmental and expert group meetings will be held; seminars cum study tours, symposia, workshops and training courses will be organized; technical manuals and guidelines will be prepared; regional and subregional surveys, studies and evaluations will be conducted and relevant publications disseminated; industrial and technological institutions will be strengthened.

31.64 In addition, efforts will be made to involve existing subregional and regional institutions and co-operative endeavours as appropriate. Regional networks will be established in such fields as new and emerging technologies, industrial consultancy, etc. The Tokyo Programme on Technology for Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted by the Commission in its resolution 235 (XL) of 27 December 1984 will be reviewed in 1994. Structural changes in the industrial sector of Asian and Pacific economies will be reviewed and assistance will be provided in policy re-orientation to improve the competitiveness of manufacturing. Substantive backstopping will be provided to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) in carefully selected areas, and information will be disseminated through directories, bulletins, newsletters and journals on industrial and technological subjects. Special attention will be paid to alleviating the problems of least developed and island developing countries in their efforts towards industrial and technological development.

SUBPROGRAMME 8: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

(a) Objectives

31.65 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from the Declaration of the Ministers of Trade of Members and Associate Members of ESCAP (see E/ESCAP/547) as endorsed by the Commission at its forty-third session (E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, para. 410), and the reports of the Commission on its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (E/1987/34-E/ESCAP/590, paras. 393-417; E/1988/35-E/ESCAP/644, paras. 338-411 and 5.6-537 and E/1989/33-E/ESCAP/693, paras. 335-365 and 467-478).

31.66 A trend towards protecting national interests through a proliferation of discriminatory trade alliances and regional groupings and by raising barriers against competitive exporters is discernible in the emerging trade environment. Increasing competition from the newly industrializing countries and from emerging newly industrializing countries, particularly in the area of export of manufactures in the moderate technology sector, on one side, and from low-income developing countries with labour-intensive products, on the other, has led many countries to heighten their trade barriers on exports from their competitors. Developed countries are also increasingly demanding reciprocity in trade relations from developing countries, while the outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations could have a profound effect on the trade prospects of developing countries of the region by conferring both new opportunities and new responsibilities for the conduct of international trade. Expansion of international trade through the maintenance of free and open markets and the enhancement of value addition in exports will be a key instrument for growth of both the export-led economies and other national economies of the region in order

to accelerate the momentum of economic development. This will require (a) a response to the uncertainties of the prevailing external environment by appropriate adjustments at both the trade policy and trade promotion levels, (b) diversification in exports by a more pronounced shift from trade intensiveness in natural resources and commodities towards trade intensiveness in intermediate and higher technology, (c) improved access to new and emerging markets as a result of changes in the legal and business environment in many countries following adoption of market-oriented reforms, and (d) improved and cost-effective techniques of trade promotion through information and trade facilitating measures, including the strengthening of measures for human resource development. Also, the role of tourism has become particularly significant as a source of foreign exchange in developing countries with limited resources. Tourism in the region is expected to play a substantial development role through its potential to earn foreign exchange and create employment opportunities.

31.67 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To increase intraregional trade and investment as a vehicle for more extensive regional co-operation;

(b) To enhance national and collective capabilities of the developing member countries to enable them to expand trade and trade policies alliances, regional groupings and other barriers against competitive exporters;

(c) To formulate improved trade policy options for effective mobilization of natural and human resources;

(d) To introduce cost-effective trade promotion and trade-support measures;

(e) To accommodate and effectively operate in the trade environment expected to emerge from the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations;

(f) To expand trade through access to alternative markets created as a result of changes in the business environment;

(g) To improve the trade performance of the land locked, least developed and island developing countries in order to revitalize their economic development;

(h) To help formulate and implement improved tourism development policies and related measures to achieve sustainable growth in this area and contribute to socio-economic development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.68 Considering the continuing structural changes in the economies of developing countries of this region, the goals of the secretariat will be the following:

(a) To give priority attention to expansion of value-added trade and to support national and collective efforts through research, technical co-operation and advisory missions;

(b) To examine the trade régimes for manufactures in the region and to evaluate the potential for trade expansion in manufactures to undertake an

assessment of investment opportunities and the promotion of joint ventures through analytical studies and the provision of technical co-operation;

(c) To identify and carry out research on new sectors with high trade potential and to provide technical co-operation in order to strengthen national institutions in preparation for diagnostic studies of the role of services in the economic development and trade of the developing countries of the region;

(d) To strengthen existing regional mechanisms including the Bangkok Agreement, the Asian Clearing Union and the Asian Reinsurance Corporation, and to investigate the modalities for increased links between economic groupings in the region, to promote co-operation among the region's chambers of commerce and industry, and entrepreneurs, with a view to increased intra-regional trade;

(e) To carry out studies of financial requirements for the promotion of trade and trade-related investments, and, in co-operation with multilateral financial institutions and organizations, to train government officials and executives of financial and monetary institutions in resource mobilization for trade-related financing, with particular emphasis on improvement of accessibility to export finance for small- and medium-scale exporters in the developing countries.

31.69 Activities will be undertaken to promote a programme of policy development in the minerals sector through research and analysis of the comparative experience in the region in the development of mineral sector policies and to strengthen co-operation between countries of the region that produce agricultural commodities.

31.70 The basis will be laid for adopting new technologies associated with the Automatic System for Customs Data and the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport.

31.71 As a further measure of trade promotion, ESCAP will continue to provide services to member countries through recurrent technical publications of the regional trade information network (TISNET). It will also prepare and disseminate the results of market research and studies through technical publications such as market guidebooks, traders' manuals and market profiles of selected products and commodities, will develop data bases covering, inter alia, trade flows, tariff and non-tariff measures by the end of the plan period, and will apply modern information technologies to curtail delays in data dissemination. Assistance will be provided through advisory and consultancy services and training, as well as through trade fairs.

31.72 Emphasis will be given to the improvement of policies for tourism development on the basis of an appraisal of the economic impact of tourism. Activities under the subprogramme will continue to attach special attention to the development of human resources and to minimizing the adverse impact of tourism on social and physical environment.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. NATURAL RESOURCES (INCLUDING MARINE AFFAIRS)

(a) Objectives

31.73 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 32/158, para. 8 and 43/18; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1979/67, 1979/68, 1979/70, 1981/80, 1981/81, 1983/57, 1985/49 and 1987/9; and Commission resolution 45/5.

31.74 The mineral industry in the developing countries of the region is now gaining increasing recognition as an important contributor to development. While earlier the industry was seen largely as a means to foreign exchange earnings, there is a growing awareness that its role as a supplier of raw materials for national industrial development is potentially of equal importance. This is especially true for the newly industrialized countries and those countries expected to emerge as newly industrialized countries in the foreseeable future. It is for those countries that the need for accelerated mineral exploration, ideally leading to the establishment of a total resources base, is advocated. While human resources development in the more advanced countries is becoming established, the technical workforce in the minerals related areas of the least developed countries is inadequate and there is limited awareness of recent developments in the minerals industry with regard to exploration concepts, techniques, mining and investment policies and the development of potential markets in the region.

31.75 In many countries of the region a considerable amount of the water resources is not effectively utilized because of the lack of national plans and programmes for water resources development. Furthermore, recurrent damage caused by such natural disasters as cyclones, floods and drought has become a significant negative factor in economic development of a large number of countries.

31.76 Resource development, planning and management will face increasing challenges in the 1990s due to the scarcity of natural resources, the degradation of the environment and the global population explosion. However, advanced information technology has given rise to new opportunities for resource managers, planners and decision makers world wide. In particular, it is widely recognized that remote sensing and geographic information system technology represents a new dimension of modernization of natural resources inventory, environment and natural hazard monitoring and environmentally sound development planning and decision making. This technology will become essential for the modernization of resource and environment management in the developing member countries of ESCAP during the next decade. In view of the fast developing practical uses, as well as futuristic characteristics of such technology, there will be a need for the member countries to improve and update their capabilities to cope with the emerging developments in this new field. Problems to be addressed in this field should, therefore, be to create a self-reliant remote sensing base in the country capable of meeting the updated requirements of this dynamic technology.

31.77 The ocean areas brought under national jurisdiction as a result of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea contain resources that offer substantial economic opportunities to coastal developing countries of the ESCAP region. However, together with rights, coastal countries are faced with responsibilities with regard to the management of the resources and the uses of ocean space. The collection, analysis and dissemination of information on marine resources, as well as training in the various aspects of marine affairs, may be expected to contribute to the alleviation of those problems. Furthermore, the Convention advocates an integrated approach to marine affairs, thus requiring the strengthening or creation of a new legal, institutional and policy-making framework at the national level.

31.78 The objectives in the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To promote regional co-operation through the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes for the proper assessment, development,

rational utilization and management of mineral resources and the appraisal of geology for planning;

(b) To promote an integrated and comprehensive approach to environmentally sound and sustainable water resources development and management, and to support technical co-operation among developing countries in water resources development and management;

(c) To increase the self-reliance of developing countries of the region in using remote sensing and geographic information systems technologies for resource and environment management;

(d) To promote the development of a consistent and uniform approach to the new ocean régime under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and to promote regional co-operation in marine affairs;

(e) To create awareness of the evolving technology in the field of natural resources and change the attitude of resource managers, planners and decision makers towards a more scientific and rational process; to undertake a review and assessment of the state of technology development and to analyse the technical gaps in, and developmental needs of, developing member countries; and to assist the member countries in improving their policy-making capabilities in the use of new technologies as well as their managerial skills in implementing national programmes;

(f) To assist member countries in deriving optimum benefits from the marine resources under their national jurisdiction, in exercising their rights and fulfilling their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and in the development and implementation of an integrated marine policy; and to strengthen member country capabilities in planning, developing and managing the marine resources under national jurisdiction.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.79 The activities during the plan period will include (a) the preparation of studies and maps to provide countries with information concerning the geology and the mineral resources of the region in the development of indigenous raw materials for the construction, chemical, ceramic, glass and fertilizer industries; (b) assistance through advisory missions in the formulation of their national programmes of mineral resources development; (c) country by country inventories of geology and mineral resources and regional inventories of selected and commonly important mineral commodities, and preparation of investment guides for selected countries; and (d) assistance in transfer of higher technology and evaluation of the mineral resources base and mineral exploration, through practical training, study tours, working groups and technical conferences.

31.80 In the appraisal of geology for planning purposes, training will be provided to national geoscientists and geotechnical engineers with regard to the assessment and mitigation of geologic hazards. Co-operation between geoscientists and urban land-use planners will be emphasized through the convening of working groups on matters related to geologic hazards, collation and assessment of geologic data on maps of urbanizing areas and the overall geologic conditions in member countries for the purpose of developing appropriate development plans for both cities and urban regions.

31.81 Advisory services in water resources development and assistance to the member countries will be provided in the development of ground-water resources. Master water plans and river basin plans will be prepared. Information will be disseminated on current developments of regional interest, global experience, ideas and techniques applicable to the development of national water resources and the management of drinking water supply and sanitation facilities. The ESCAP secretariat will also undertake the following: (a) assessment and inventory of water resources in the region; (b) promotion of regional co-operation in water resources development through Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and other means; (c) agreed activities in the field of shared water resources development; and (d) providing assistance in establishing and enhancing the legal and administrative infrastructure related to water resources development.

31.82 In the field of remote sensing and cartography, an expanded space applications programme will be established, including remote sensing and geographic information technology, pilot studies, seminars, workshops and meetings in co-operation with member countries.

31.83 The ESCAP secretariat will also continue to assist member countries as regards the legal, economic and technical implications of the Convention, as well as the development of a regional approach to marine affairs.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. POPULATION

(a) Objectives

31.84 The legislative authority of the subprogramme is Commission resolution 185 (XXXIV).

31.85 As an integral component of overall national development, population has a direct bearing on virtually every economic, social and political issue faced by the billions of people who inhabit the countries of the Asian and Pacific region. Although population growth rates in many countries of the region have recently declined from previously record-high levels, owing in part to the commitment of Governments to the programmes they established to implement their population policies, other countries, some with very large population bases, continue to face high fertility rates and enormous population problems. Such problems are compounded by religious, cultural and ideological values and by deep personal and human considerations that make the solution of population issues difficult. In some of the countries with successful programmes, new problems have arisen as a result of their past achievements in bringing about a decline in fertility rates and improved socio-economic conditions, that is, a changing age structure and high levels of internal migration and urbanization. The degree to which the Governments of developing countries in the region are able to continue working towards meeting their population goals will depend on their ability to formulate appropriate policies and implement programmes that are effective in light of changing circumstances. Thus, information is among the major components contributing to the success of population policies and programmes in the countries of the region.

31.86 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To promote an integrated approach by Governments in the region to population planning within overall social and economic development planning;

(b) To promote co-operation and exchange of experience between countries in the areas of policy and programme formulation and implementation;

(c) To strengthen the capability of Governments to acquire, analyze, disseminate and utilize population data and information in support of policy formulation and programme implementation;

(d) To assist member countries that have had difficulties in reaching their goals in the field of population to identify and overcome constraints to the achievement of those goals.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.87 The activities of the secretariat in this field will include:

(a) To continue work on the long-term population issues facing the developing countries of the region, including periodic reviews of countries' demographic status and monitoring of their progress in the implementation of the population targets established under the World Population Plan of Action, adopted at the World Population Conference, held in 1974, and of the recommendations for its further implementation as well as those measures agreed to regionally under the Asia-Pacific Call for Action on Population and Development; and to organize a conference on population and biennial session of the relevant legislative committee, and other technical meetings and seminars;

(b) To carry out methodological and policy-oriented research studies on the population problems faced by the developing countries of the region and on measures to resolve them; to promote monitoring and evaluation activities of national population programmes and demographic research for effective implementation of national programmes in pursuance of meeting national demographic targets; and to foster improved data analysis and utilization of data provided by population censuses, vital registration systems, demographic sample surveys and family planning records in the formulation and implementation of development policies and programmes;

(c) To continue to provide technical co-operation in order to enable the developing countries to formulate better and more effective development policies and programmes, through training and the provision of fellowships for population studies; to undertake collaborative inter-country research on emerging population issues such as population aging, spatial distribution, the relationships between population and the environment, the role of women, infant and child mortality, the integration of population into development planning; and to provide assistance for strengthening the relevant data bases on such topics;

(d) To provide advisory services and technical co-operation to Governments to assist them in developing national capabilities in population and development planning and policy formulation, research and evaluation activities; to develop human resources through training, workshops and seminars, and collaborative research; and to share expertise and experiences in family planning policy and programme development;

(e) To continue providing assistance in the development of population information systems, including the co-ordination of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network (Asia-Pacific POPIN), through the introduction of advanced

communication techniques to enable the developing countries to improve the utilization of data and information through publications designed to promote national awareness of the social, economic and other implications of population issues and possible strategies to deal with them.

SUBPROGRAMME 11. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

31.88 The legislative authority for the programme derives from General Assembly resolutions 41/97, para. 3; 42/125 para. 7; 43/94, para. 7; 43/98, paras. 6 and 9; and 43/101, para. 16; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/10, para. 4; 1988/9, para. 7; 1988/19, para. 7; 1988/30, para. 2; 1988/59, para. 3; 1988/60, para 3; and 1988/61, para 4; and Commission resolutions 249 (XLII), 252 (XLIII), 265 (XLIV), 274 (LXIV) and 45/1.

31.89 In the 1990s the region will continue to experience vigorous economic growth, which will, however, be accompanied by increasingly serious problems of social adjustment. It can be expected that, throughout much of the region, the disadvantaged sections of society will continue to suffer critical deprivation unless energetic and innovative action is taken. It will be necessary to devise and execute comprehensive social development strategies, policies, plans and programmes to ensure that the people's social aims and aspirations are given attention commensurate with the pursuit of economic goals and objectives. In this connection, such critical development issues as the fulfillment of basic needs, achievement of distributive equity, participation of marginalized social groups in development, and the delivery of essential social services will continue to require priority attention.

31.90 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To formulate and implement social policies, plans and programmes in order to achieve balanced socio-economic development, including the full participation of all social groups in the development process;

(b) To assist Governments in formulating and refining national approaches to social development and to establish regional support measures in accordance with a regional social development strategy;

(c) To support the adoption and implementation of national approaches to social development in accordance with a regional social development strategy;

(d) To monitor and evaluate progress achieved in the implementation of national social development approaches in accordance with a regional social development strategy, and to design appropriate modifications and follow-up.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.91 During the plan period, activities will focus on institutional networking, intergovernmental forums, research, advisory services and technical co-operation such as training workshops, pilot projects, and information collection and dissemination. A regional network or similar arrangement will be established to support the effective ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of a regional social development strategy and its implications for the quality of life

in the region. Advisory services will be provided to assist governments in strengthening national social development policies, plans and programmes in accordance with the relevant aspects of a regional strategy. Research studies will be undertaken to provide national social development policy makers, planners and practitioners with an informed basis for their implementation of specific aspects of the strategy.

31.92 In the area of delivery of social services, advisory services will be provided and meetings will be convened to harmonize the co-ordination of government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the delivery of social services at the community level. Studies and workshops will be undertaken to clarify the causes of crime, particularly juvenile crime, in the context of rapid development and to devise improved means of reducing the incidence of crime, particularly juvenile crime. A regional network of drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes will be developed. Planning workshops will be undertaken to develop integrated drug abuse demand control programmes in several communities in the region. A series of seminar-cum-study tours and training courses for community-level drug abuse demand control practitioners will be implemented. Evaluations of ongoing drug abuse demand control programmes will be conducted and programme improvements proposed.

31.93 Surveys and studies will be undertaken of the current situation and major problems facing marginalized social groups, including the absolute poor, youth, women, disabled persons and the elderly and practical approaches will be devised to enhancing the participation of those groups in development. Advisory services will be provided to assist government agencies and non-governmental organizations in promoting the participation of those groups. Training courses will be conducted and training manuals will be prepared for upgrading the leadership skills of members of those groups as a means of promoting self-help movements among marginalized social groups.

SUBPROGRAMME 12. SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

(a) Objectives

31.94 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 34/203; 34/210; 35/56, annex, para. 136; 35/205; 36/194, paras. 8, 10, 11, and 13; 40/205; 41/163; 42/177; 43/186; and 43/189; and Commission resolutions 244 (XLI) and 269 (XLIV).

31.95 Despite the adoption of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, the socio-economic situation of that group of countries in the region generally deteriorated in the 1980s. For the most part, the goals set in the Programme were not achieved and the average GDP growth of the least developed countries of the ESCAP region was much below the target of 7.2 per cent per annum envisaged in the Programme. Hence, their generally poor economic performance over the past decade, the growing income disparity between them and most other developing countries in the region, and the large gap between the commitments and actual delivery of international assistance extended to them have raised serious concern for their growth prospects in the years ahead.

31.96 With regard to the Pacific island economies, their growth on average has been the lowest in the ESCAP region. That has led to a long-term decline in the

standard of living of most of those economies. Moreover, low growth has been exacerbated by high volatility in economic performance and the countries remain extremely vulnerable to economic shocks of both domestic and foreign origin. That vulnerability has created complications and has added costs in designing and implementing development policies and plans. It has also made the task of macro-economic management and stabilization more difficult.

31.97 In the light of those concerns, emphasis will be placed on the need to rededicate international commitment to meet the special needs of the least developed and island developing countries, as well as for these countries to make a concerted effort for more effective utilization of resources at their command, both generated internally and those flowing from abroad.

31.98 The objectives with regard to the least developed countries are:

(a) To review and monitor the implementation of the new assistance programme for their benefit resulting from the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 1990;

(b) To undertake periodic reviews and assessments on the state of their socio-economic situation;

(c) To analyse the major policy issues facing them and to suggest feasible measures for their resolution;

(d) To assist these countries in improving skills in the formulation, implementation and management of development activities.

31.99 The objectives with respect to island developing countries are:

(a) To assess their economic performance, with emphasis on an analysis of constraints and measures needed to overcome them in the context of development policy and planning;

(b) To examine the nature of emerging changes in the external environment in the 1990s and their implications with regard to trade, finance and investment and to recommend courses of action and policy option responses to those changes;

(c) To identify critical areas of need in training of government officials, particularly in development policy and planning, and to follow-up through the provision of consultancy and advisory services and the conduct of training courses and seminars.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.100 With regard to the least developed countries, in-depth studies will be undertaken on the special problems and on possible measures to resolve them. Emphasis will also be placed on technical co-operation in the form of consultancy, advisory services and training.

31.101 As for island developing countries, their social and economic problems will be analysed in greater detail and development profiles of their economies will be prepared and updated periodically. Seminars and workshops will be organized for wider dissemination of in-depth studies on selected issues in development policy

and planning, and tr ining and orientation programmes will be conducted in areas of identified needs in development policy and planning. Short-term technical co-operation will also be provided through advisory and consultancy missions. Exploratory work will be carried out on promoting greater subregional and regional co-operation, especially in the fields of foreign investment and trade. Human resources development activities will receive high priority in both the least developed and island developing countries components of the subprogramme.

SUBPROGRAMME 13. STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

31.102 The legislative authority for the subprogramme is Commission resolution 246 (XLII), paragraphs 2 and 4.

31.103 Very few, if any of the developing countries of the region are as yet completely able to satisfy, in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness, the requirements for information that the increasingly complex challenge of economic and social development demands. Available data often do not form a cohesive, consistent body of information that can be utilized in cross-sectoral analysis. The use of statistics is not yet sufficiently implanted into the policy formulation and decision-making processes in many countries, and there is an inadequate appreciation of the role of statisticians in the management of the economy. Throughout the region, budgetary constraints are hampering the development of national statistical services, and inadequate human resources development is a key factor hindering strengthened statistical capability, especially in the application of computerized technology to statistical work.

31.104 Without readily available comparable regional data, administrators, policy makers and researchers encounter difficulties in the formulation of development programmes in the region, in monitoring the development process and in evaluating the impact of development plans generally and of regional and international development strategies in particular. There is currently no comprehensive integrated statistical data base available with which to assess and monitor economic and social development in the region.

31.105 The application of information technology in the government sector offers one of the most promising prospects in developing countries for improving the planning and management of development. However, computerization of the government sector in the region is impeded by a number of obstacles, primarily institutional, organizational and human resources related, but also technological. Moreover, existing government information systems in developing countries are concentrated at the central government level and are sectoral in nature, and thus do not adequately support the planning and management process. In addition, public sector computing increasingly requires a migration away from traditional data processing applications, which deal with data in separation from day-to-day operations. In spite of recent developments that have brought information technology within their economic and practical grasp, developing countries are not yet equipped to deal with these matters because of limitations on their experience and expertise.

31.106 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To assist countries in meeting the aspirations expressed in Commission resolution 246 (XLII) and earlier legislative action and to promote the efficient utilization of information technology in the development process;

(b) To assist member countries and groups of countries in developing and improving their capabilities to identify, collect, process, analyse and utilize the data needed for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans and policies;

(c) To improve the availability of data on the region and its constituent countries, through the gathering from member countries of demographic, social, economic and other statistics, their maintenance in a form suitable for retrieval and their dissemination through various means;

(d) To foster the utilization of modern information technology in the public sector in order to strengthen the ability at both the central and subnational levels to plan and manage economic and social development.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.107 The secretariat will continue to help countries, through direct technical co-operation, to strengthen and consolidate their statistical capacity. With maturing capabilities in several countries of the region, greater emphasis will be placed on fostering all forms of regional co-operation, including technical co-operation among developing countries. The activities will also address the need for accuracy and timely dissemination of data, while work on requirements for guidelines, classifications and methodologies in existing and emerging activities will be continued, in conjunction with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP).

31.108 Advisory services will continue to be provided in such fields as national accounts, population censuses and surveys, household surveys and data processing. Transfer and exchange of statistical expertise through technical meetings, and its dissemination through training courses and workshops, will have a direct impact on human resources development in the field of statistics.

31.109 Increasing concern with the qualitative aspects of development, including social justice and the environment, will be reflected in the secretariat's activities, as will greater efforts at the measurement of living standards at the micro-level. In view of growing concern with the depletion of natural resource assets in the region, special attention will be paid to environmental and natural resource accounting.

31.110 Closer attention will also be paid to intercountry comparability of data, and work on the International Comparison Programme (ICP) will continue to be supported.

31.111 Automation of the data base of ESCAP statistical publications will be gradually developed, both to provide better service to users and to utilize the secretariat's resources more efficiently. Efforts will continue to further improve the coverage, quality and comparability of data collected and disseminated by the secretariat, and attempts will also be made to attain consistency in national statistics and to assess their reliability. Efforts will be made to introduce a new dissemination service through the provision of statistics on diskettes for microcomputers and through other media. New compilations in specialized fields of statistics, particularly those relevant to priority areas, may be issued. An ESCAP-wide integrated data bank of economic,social and demographic statistics, providing access to the United Nations data bases at New York and Geneva and other international agencies will be completed and this will

help revitalize the in-house statistical servicing aspects of the secretariat's work.

31.112 In public sector computerization, work will be targeted towards the realization of the potential of information technology and the intensification of its use throughout government, particularly at the subnational level.

SUBPROGRAMME 14. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Objectives

31.113 The legislative authority for this subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 35/56 and 39/227; the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countires as it applies to the improvement of the transport and communications infrastructure; Commission resolution 236 (XL); Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/78; and the Declaration on the Launching of the Transport and Communications Decade by the Ministers Responsible for Transport and Communications.

31.114 There are great differences in the current development status of the transport and communications sectors of the ESCAP developing member countries. This is mainly due to the complexities of geography and location, especially in least developed, archipelagic and land-locked countries, and the different levels of economic development, including the countries' development perspective and policy orientations. However, some common factors have prevented developing member countries from acquiring a modern and efficient transport and communications system. Among those factors are insufficient investment, deficiencies in management, lack of integrated planning and co-ordination among different modes of transport, slow pace of technological improvement, inadequate manpower development, outdated legislative and commercial framework, lack of statistics, and low private sector involvement.

31.115 The provision of an adequate transport and communications infrastructure is essential to support the economic and social development of the countries of the region, which is proceeding at a faster rate than in other regions. Inadequacies of the infrastructure are apparent and, unless rectified, will hinder future economic and social development.

31.116 The objectives of the subprogramme are the following:

(a) To improve the transport and communications services and infrastructural facilities of the developing member countries to a level commensurate with their development objectives and priorities through the development of appropriate, well-balanced, co-ordinated and efficient transport and communications systems;

(b) To promote interregional, regional and subregional co-operation and co-ordination to achieve collective self-reliance in transport and communications;

(c) To review and identify major regional problems in transport and communications and to assist in the implementation of approaches to overcome those problems;

(d) To assist in the improvement of operational efficiency of transport and transport networks;

(e) To evaluate and promote technology transfer for efficient operation and maintenance of transport and communications with special reference to low-cost technology.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.117 The goal of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, is to create greater awareness of the importance of transport and communications and the need to ensure that the infrastructural facility is in place to support economic growth. The secretariat will continue to perform its catalytic role in creating greater public awareness of the importance of transport and communications in the development process, in identifying systematically and in a comprehensive manner the problems of transport and communications in the region, and in formulating and promoting appropriate solutions to regional problems.

31.118 The transport and communications development of the region will be reviewed; intermodal and multimodal transport at the interregional, intraregional and national levels will be promoted; international transport will be promoted, including the expansion and promotion of the Asian Highway network and the Trans-Asian Railway network and interregional and intraregional transport linkages; assistance will be provided for the modernization of transport and communications systems; support will be provided for the strengthening of co-operation between them and with the transport industry; and the uniformity of transport and communications information systems, and enhancement of the transport data bases will be encouraged.

SUBPROGRAMME 15. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objective

31.119 The legislative authority for the programme is General Assembly resolutions 40/105, paragraphs 2 and 4; 42/64, paragraph 1; 42/178, paragraph 5; and 43/101, paragraphs 7, 8 and 16; Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/59, paragraphs 1 and 3; and Commission resolutions 249 (XLII) and 274 (XLIV).

31.120 In view of the low status and unequal participation of women in development, countries in the region need assistance to intensify their efforts to promote the advancement of women. Assistance is also required to strengthen national machineries for the advancement of women in order to design appropriate indicators and programmes for women's participation in development and refine them with usage and women's changing status.

31.121 The objective of the subprogramme will be:

(a) To provide support to national, subregional and regional efforts to develop new approaches, guidelines and strategies to promote the full integration of women in development and ensure their equal status in society, in accordance with global and regional mandates and strategies, in particular the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000;

(b) To assist Governments in implementing national and regional plans to strengthen national mechanisms for women and to assist them in ensuring that programmes are implemented effectively;

(c) To monitor and evaluate the progress achieved by countries in the implementation of the global and regional mandates and strategies.

(b) Course of action of the secretariat

31.122 Guidelines and recommendations to Governments of member and associate member countries for the advancement of women will be provided through technical publications, seminars and meetings. Advisory services and technical co-operation such as training workshops and internship exchange programmes will be provided to assist in strengthening women's participation in development and in supporting national mechanisms for women in strengthening of national, subregional and regional information networks on the status of women. In conformity with the sytem-wide medium-term plan for women and development, 1990-1995, the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) Policy analysis on women's employment will be carried out. Research studies will be undertaken on the role of women in rural sector. Special attention will be paid to women's role in science and technology. Training manuals will be prepared. Training workshops to improve the productivity of women in the informal sector will be organized. Training programmes will be conducted aimed at developing and manufacturing exportable commodities by women, and training activities will be conducted to promote women's entrepreneurial abilities and to strengthen their marketing and management skills;

(b) Research studies will be undertaken with a view to harnessing women's contribution to family development and quality of life. Technical co-operation will be provided to improve accessibility of family planning programmes to women, and advisory services will be provided to strengthen co-operation between government agencies and non-governmental organizations for the advancement of women;

(c) Technical co-operation will be provided to develop effective strategies for establishing and strengthening national women's information mechanisms at the national and subregional levels. Advisory services and training will be undertaken to assist women's information centres to collect, analyse, process and disseminate information about women as well as to develop effective media materials for women. The computerized regional data base will be further developed to provide comprehensive statistical and bibliographic data on women, and updated regional directories, training manuals and resource materials on and for women will be published together with the Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP) newsletter;

(d) Training workshops will be organized to improve the integration of women's concerns in development planning, and advisory services will be provided to promote the formulation and application of effective national policies for the integration of women in the development process. A regional meeting will be convened to exchange country experiences and formulate policy proposals on demand-oriented human resources development strategies for women. Women and environmental concerns will be given special attention through the preparation of studies and organization of meetings. Periodic monitoring will be undertaken of the regional implementation of global strategies, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. Research studies will be

conducted and subregional meetings will be held to consider measures to improve the legal status of women. Legal literacy campaigns will be carried out to promote legal awareness among women.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/6 (Prog. 32)
7 May 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 32. Regional co-operation for development in Europe

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
A.	Programme	32.1 - 32.14	3
	1. General orientation	32.1 - 32.8	3
	2. Overall strategy	32.9 - 32.12	5
	3. Subprogramme structure and priorities	32.13 - 32.14	5
B.	Subprogrammes	32.15 - 32.84	6
	1. Development issues and policies	32.15 - 32.21	6
	2. Food and agriculture (including forestry products)	32.22 - 32.28	8
	3. Environment	32.29 - 32.36	9

---

* The present document contains programme 32 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The complete medium-term plan will subsequently be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/45/6/Rev.1).

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
4.	Human settlements	32.37 - 32.43	11
5.	Industrial development	32.44 - 32.47	12
6.	International trade and development finance	32.48 - 32.56	14
7.	Energy	32.57 - 32.60	16
8.	Science and technology	32.61 - 32.64	16
9.	Transport, communications and tourism	32.65 - 32.80	18
10.	Statistics	32.81 - 32.84	20

PROGRAMME 32. REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE

A. Programme

1. General orientation

32.1 The legislative authority of the present programme derives from Chapters IX and X of the Charter of the United Nations and from Economic and Social Council resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, whereby the Council established the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and assigned to it responsibilities for co-ordination and promotion of international economic co-operation in Europe. The mandate of the programme is further elaborated in a number of Assembly and Council resolutions, as well as in Commission resolutions and decisions, the most recent and pertinent of which are Assembly resolutions 40/178, 43/219 and 44/211, Council resolution 1989/114, and Commission resolution 1 (44). In view of the changes currently taking place in the region, the content of the programme will need to be revised; such changes will be proposed to the Council and the Assembly at the earliest possible time.

32.2 The programme is aimed at:

(a) Strengthening regional, subregional and interregional co-operation and co-ordination of economic policies;

(b) Making full use of potential economic growth opportunities through the implementation of appropriate economic and social policies, and focusing on the relationship of the environment to economic activity, in particular the application of the principles of sustainable development;

(c) Promoting the process of economic reforms in Eastern Europe and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and integrating the economies in transition into the European and global economy.

32.3 The programmes of the regional commissions, including ECE, have evolved in response to the needs of member countries and changing economic and social conditions in the regions and the world. Since many of the issues in the economic, social and environmental fields calling for concerted international action are essentially regional in nature, they can be dealt with most effectively at the regional level. In that context, ECE will be called upon to play an increasingly active role in promoting regional and subregional initiatives, including the promotion of the process of economic reform and the integration of the economies in transition into the global economy.

32.4 Over the years, the promotion of dialogue and co-operation between countries of the region with different economic systems was a major task of the Commission, which is the only permanent intergovernmental multilateral body in the region for promotion of East-West economic co-operation. In keeping with that function, ECE has played an important role in the implementation of pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, signed in 1975, and subsequent relating documents. The concluding documents of the Madrid and Vienna follow-up meetings specifically acknowledged the work of ECE - both accomplished or in progress - and outlined new activities for the Commission.

32.5 Major economic processes in the ECE region will give rise to a re-orientation and strengthening of co-operation in the region and certain subregions during the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan. Those include economic reforms in the centrally-planned economies, as well as integration processes in (a) the European Community, (b) the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, (c) the European Free Trade Association, and (d) the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement. Further emphasis will be added at the subregional level to co-operation among the Balkan countries, countries in central Europe and in the Baltic and the Arctic regions, as well as in the Mediterranean.

32.6 The positive developments in co-operation within Europe and North America at both the regional and subregional levels indicate more vibrant economic relations in the 1990s. However, the share of ECE in global production and trade places a marked responsibility on the member countries and on ECE as an organization, particularly in the areas of environment and promotion of sustainable development. In that context, much more has to be done to promote co-operation between States and groups of States in the areas vital not only to the region but beyond. The interaction of economic activity and the environment will be one of the critical issues throughout the 1990s. Other problems, which are more than of regional importance, in particular topical issues with transboundary environmental impacts in the fields of air, water, flora and fauna, environmental impact assessment, handling of potentially dangerous chemicals, hazardous waste management and transport of dangerous goods, as well as climatic change and global warming, will be the main challenges in the ECE region over the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan.

32.7 On the basis of its comprehensive and multi-sectoral programme of work, ECE, like the other regional commissions, has a particular potential for interdisciplinary or cross-sectoral approaches to complex problems, a potential that will prove to be of increasing significance given the growing number and urgency of problems that demand solutions involving more than one approach. The experience gained in the preparation of the Overall Economic Perspective to the Year 2000 and the interdisciplinary approach developed by ECE on sustainable economic development as a follow-up to the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development will serve as models for a wider application of such methods of work.

32.8 In terms of the sectoral approach, the Commission will work on trade facilitation, particularly on electronic data interchange, trade in services, further expansion of tourism, innovative forms of industrial co-operation, including joint ventures and management training, promotion of foreign direct investment and other forms of financing, as well as on standardization and certification. Other major issues confronting ECE in the 1990s will be changes in population structures, particularly aging populations, economic and social changes and problems in rural areas; management of natural resources and environmental protection, including the interaction of economic growth, social development and environmental impacts; new challenges for transport and communications; and problems of structural changes in industry and major developments in the energy sector, such as the rational use of energy and new energy sources. In the area of information, ECE will continue to serve as a forum for dialogue among its member countries on many critical issues and also as a centre for data collection and for the dissemination of specific information in the region to all its members, as and when required.

2. Overall strategy

32.9 The programme will be implemented by the secretariat of ECE. It will undertake economic research and analysis of specific issues, provide substantive servicing of the Commission, as and when required, and organize seminars and other events in member countries, and for groups of countries, with a view to helping them cope with specific problems affecting them. In the framework of a global data policy, the secretariat will maintain links with national statistical offices and provide access to its databanks for various media, as well as disseminate information on specific issues to all interested parties.

32.10 More specifically, the economic research undertaken by the secretariat on its own responsibility will aim at a better assessment of economic activity and development in the region and beyond. In addition to its analytical and technical work, ECE will also continue to serve as a forum for the elaboration of medium- and long-term strategies and policy recommendations. Examples such as the Overall Economic Perspective to the Year 2000, a regional strategy for environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources, energy balances to the year 2000, a charter on groundwater management, long-term perspectives for human settlements development, and timber trends and prospects to the year 2000 and beyond could serve as a stimulus for ECE to take up similar activities in other areas, including an all-European concept of transport and new ecosystem approaches to the environment.

32.11 Since ECE has already proved to be an appropriate framework for the elaboration and adoption of regional legal instruments, some of which are increasingly applied beyond the ECE region, the experience gained in the fields of transport and environment will be applied to other areas where such regulations are in the interests of all ECE member countries. In addition, ECE will strengthen its efforts to translate its work into concrete and practical measures. More efficient ways of communicating with and involving end users, and, in particular, the business community, will be devised through common efforts by the member countries and the secretariat to derive the largest possible benefit from ECE activities.

32.12 In the course of the implementation of the programme, the secretariat of ECE will co-operate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and other subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as with other regional commissions. It will also co-ordinate its activities with a number of specialized agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

32.13 In the light of the above orientation, the programme will consist of the following subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1. Development issues and policies

Subprogramme 2. Food and agriculture (including forestry products)

Subprogramme 3. Environment

Subprogramme 4. Human settlements

Subprogramme 5. Industrial development

Subprogramme 6. International trade and development finance

Subprogramme 7. Energy

Subprogramme 8. Science and technology

Subprogramme 9. Transport, communications and tourism

Subprogramme 10. Statistics

32.14 Owing to the diversity in the level of economic, social and technological conditions among the members of ECE, priority concern within the programme is placed on the concerted efforts to accelerate development of those countries whose potential should be strengthened and to enhance the process of co-operation and economic integration in the region. In that context, subprogrammes 3, 6, 9 and 10 are designated high priority.

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND POLICIES

(a) Objectives

32.15 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 39/228, 40/178, 42/186, 44/77, 44/169, 44/210 and 44/211; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1989/91, 1989/93, 1989/105 and 1989/114; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decisions H (44) and Q (44).

32.16 The subprogramme addresses problems of socio-economic development with long gestation periods, requiring a coherent macro-economic framework for the region. During the period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan, several countries will have to continue the adjustments necessary to overcome the economic and social problems that emerged during the 1980s. Other countries will have to proceed with extensive and far-reaching economic reforms dealing with the economic and social problems during the transition period. Practically all the countries of the region will be involved in, or affected by, the integration processes that are already taking place. The complexity of national problems and the growing interdependence of the countries of the region make international co-operation in designing and implementing national economic policies essential.

32.17 In matters concerning population (including its social aspects), the problems include, inter alia, aging and the changing age structure of the population, the implications for governmental pension schemes and health insurance programmes of labour force growth, internal and international migration, as well as problems related to the advancement of women, such as the economic role of women in the region, the use of time by women, and the development of improved statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women.

32.18 In the light of the above, the main objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide member Governments with international perspectives on current economic and demographic issues so that they have a broader framework in which to approach national and international problems;

(b) To gain a perspective of the economic situation of the member countries of the region over the medium- and long-term periods in order to enable Governments to develop appropriate policies and to identify issues of common interest for international co-operation;

(c) To provide the Commission and its subsidiary bodies with background analysis of economic developments in the region;

(d) To promote an integrated approach by members of the Commission to population planning within the overall social and economic development planning process;

(e) To exchange experience on problems and issues in various fields of relevance to countries in the ECE region, for example, aging, fertility and family surveys, and the economic role of women;

(f) To develop an integrated approach by the ECE members towards demographic policies and programmes of national and international relevance and concern.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.19 In order to achieve those objectives, the Secretariat will systematically monitor the process of economic integration in the region and the economic reforms in the centrally planned economies as forces for extended co-operation between member countries. It will also focus its work on the problems facing the countries in southern Europe and the developing countries of the region. Special attention will be paid to developments and international co-operation in the service sector, structural adjustment, efficiency in the use of resources, and issues relating to population activities. Further analysis will be required of problems raised with regard to enviromental issues and natural resources as a result of the process of the economic and technological integration in the region. More detailed subjects in that respect will be determined at a later stage, depending on actual developments and the preferences expressed in the annual sessions of ECE, the Senior Economic Advisers and the Committee on the Development of Trade.

32.20 The Secretariat will continue work on studies on the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, with particular attention to the integration of population factors into development planning; the interrelationships between population and the status and role of women; comparative analysis of population policies; periodic revisions of estimates and projections of population and its structure and of urbanization; analysis of mortality, in particular infant and child mortality; reproductive behaviour, family planning and its demographic impact; internal and international migration, and comparative patterns of urbanization and population distribution; as well as continued and strengthened interdisciplinary technical co-operation activities in the field of population, in the following areas:

(a) Training in demography and matters related to population and development, including courses to upgrade knowledge and skills, particularly in the use of microcomputer software;

(b) Evaluation and analyses of basic population data, particularly from the 1990 round of population censuses, dissemination and utilization of the results, and use of computer technology, ensuring technical co-ordination at the national level in the process;

(c) Formulation and implementation of population policies and programmes in the context of national development plans, with special attention to cultural and socio-economic conditions at the subnational level;

(d) Evaluation and analyses of experience regarding technical co-operation activities in matters concerning population and the publication of studies thereon.

32.21 The Secretariat will attach particular importance to the dissemination of the results of its findings in those areas by means of conferences, seminars and other events, and also through its publications. In addition, a comprehensive database will be developed, with increasing access for member countries and other international organizations.

SUBPROGRAMME 2. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (INCLUDING FORESTRY PRODUCTS)

(a) Objectives

32.22 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 44/212; Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/90; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decisions C (43) and H (43).

32.23 With their increasing integration into the national economy, the agricultural and timber sectors, traditionally labour-intensive, are in constant need of adaptation so as to remain competitive with other sectors in attracting investment and other resources. The introduction of new technologies and the adjustment of existing ones are to be viewed against a complex background of internal and external impacts, interrelationships and consequences. The 1990s are likely to witness an intensification of the pace of change affecting agriculture and forestry, which will arise from developments in regional integration, international trade, social conditions, technology and the environment.

32.24 In that context, the Committee on Agricultural Problems of ECE has defined in its programme of work the key areas of activity, which will allow for an optimal contribution to the general objectives; and the Timber Committee has adopted a programme of work for 1989-1993.

32.25 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the field of agriculture: the continuous adaptation of existing technologies and economic concepts applicable to the sector in a changing economic and social environment, taking into account the need to integrate agriculture into the food economy (both nationally and internationally), changing market conditions and trade facilitation and standardization of perishable foodstuffs and other agricultural products, as well as environmental, resource and rural income aspects;

(b) In the field of timber: strengthening the competitive base for forestry and forest industries through continuous improvements in methods and technologies, better industrial structure and more transparency in the markets. At the same time, the subprogramme will focus on protection of the natural resource, the forest, from damaging agents, including air pollution and fire, and on raising productivity and production of wood and non-wood goods and services, while ensuring that it is achieved with due regard to environmental protection and on a sustainable basis.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.26 In the light of those objectives, member Governments of ECE will be provided with detailed and comparable information on the agricultural sector, together with appropriate analyses, with its exchange in selected key areas on technological and economic advances and experience in order to provide a basis for policy formulation, international co-operation and facilitation of trade. For timber, given the lengthy growing cycle of forest stands, emphasis will continue to be placed on the analysis of long-term trends in the sector.

32.27 In that context, the secretariat of ECE will continue to assist:

(a) The Committee on Agricultural Problems in studying priorities to keep abreast of the accelerating changes in the agriculture sector including, inter alia, the relationship between agriculture and environment, the role of agriculture within the overall land-use policy and problems related to rural population and employment;

(b) The Timber Committee in carrying out, in co-operation with FAO, activities aimed at better conservation and protection of forests and the rational use of forest resources within the ECE region; and the secretariat will prepare specific studies for the Timber Committee, as required.

32.28 In line with those responsibilities, the ECE secretariat will also organize working parties and symposia for the members of the Commission and continue to produce publications and disseminate information on the subject among the ECE members.

SUBPROGRAMME 3. ENVIRONMENT

(a) Objectives

32.29 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186, 44/207 and 44/226; Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/87; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decisions B (44), I (44) and J (44).

32.30 The emission, transmission and deposition of sulphur compounds, nitrogen oxides and other major air pollutants and their effects on human health and the environment - including agriculture, forestry, materials, aquatic and other natural ecosystems - pose major problems for the countries of the region. International co-operation is essential in the formulation and implementation of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement, in the monitoring and evaluation of the long-range transmission and the environmental effects of air pollutants and in the promotion of technologies and economic instruments for emission control.

32.31 Experience has shown that there is a strong interrelationship between the quality of the environment and economic activities and that there is a strong need to define the natural resource base for sustainable development. In that respect, environmental impact assessment is an important planning tool. In the light of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, it is necessary to elaborate a regional approach to sustainable development.

32.32 The recovery and reuse of residues from industrial production and consumption, including hazardous waste, is a policy option that offers an opportunity to economize resources as well as minimize environmental and human health impacts. There is an increasing need for the application of the cradle to grave approach to hazardous waste management, giving due attention to waste minimization at source through low- and non-waste technology. Mechanisms and procedures that provide for safe handling and transport of toxic or otherwise hazardous chemicals are growing in significance. The need to develop effective ways of conserving flora, fauna and their habitats transcends the limits of individual countries and will require further co-operation for the maintenance of an acceptable regional environment.

32.33 Water has become a key element in socio-economic development as a consequence of increased urban densities, rapid industrial expansion, changing methods of agricultural exploitation, rising living standards and the growth of tourism. In the coming years, member Governments will face a number of policy questions that call for joint international activities, in the form of co-operative programmes and agreement on action, such as: the elaboration of policies to deal with diffuse pollution; measures to prevent further contamination of waters; prevention of accidental pollution; and the design of strategies and instruments to maintain the role of the water resource in the natural ecosystem. Problems associated with the equitable utilization of transboundary waters, as well as prevention and control of transboundary pollution, including accidental pollution, will assume special importance.

32.34 In the light of that orientation, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the field of policy and management problems: to promote the elaboration, implementation and monitoring of effective environmental policies and strategies, including the concept of sustainable development, the integration of environment and economics at both the national and international levels, and the incorporation of environmental considerations into planning and decision-making procedures, including the application of environmental impact assessment, particularly in a transboundary context, and the prevention and control of transboundary effects of industrial accidents;

(b) In the field of pollution problems: to strengthen co-operation in limiting, gradually reducing and preventing air pollution, including long-range transboundary air pollution, through the implementation of strategies and policies for air pollution abatement; to monitor and evaluate the long-range transmission of air pollutants and the effects of major air pollutants on human health and the environment; and to promote international co-operation in the field of emission control technologies and economic aspects of emission control;

(c) In the field of resource and waste problems: to strengthen co-operation in reducing environmental problems associated with production and consumption processes to promote the implementation of the Declaration on Low- and Non-waste Technology and Reutilization and Recycling of Wastes; to promote environmentally sound products as well as the recycling of industrial waste; to advance integrated waste management at both the national and international levels; to promote policies reducing the risks of industrial accidents, including the elaboration of appropriate legal instruments; and to encourage international co-operation in the field of nature conservation on the basis of the Declaration on Conservation of Flora, Fauna and their Habitats;

(d) In the field of water problems: to promote the coherent development, integrated management and rational utilization of water resources and their protection against pollution, including accidental pollution. This objective includes legal, administrative, socio-economic, environmental and technical aspects at the river-basin, national and international levels in the ECE region, with special emphasis on co-operation in the field of transboundary waters.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.35 The Secretariat will undertake research and analyses of issues of the regional environment, and will monitor and evaluate the promotion of regional co-operation in specific environmental fields. It will assist the Commission, in particular, to promote co-operation among its members regarding environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, to formulate integrated policies and strategies aimed at sustainable economic development, to select priority issues for policy discussion in promoting international co-operation in environmental impact assessment, industrial accident and transboundary waters, through specific legal instruments, and to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources, the application of the code of conduct on accidental pollution of transboundary waters and the Charter on Groundwater Management.

32.36 The Secretariat will service regular meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies, organize seminars and other meetings in different subregions on environmental issues aimed at disseminating the findings of the research and analyses and will examine ways of translating those findings into intergovernmental and governmental policies and measures.

SUBPROGRAMME 4. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(a) Objectives

32.37 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 44/173; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44).

32.38 Countries of the region face a continuing problem of adapting the built environment to changing needs of society and to new preferences and lifestyles of the people. There is a need to modernize existing buildings and settlements and to renew and revitalize city centres and neighbourhoods. Furthermore, there is a need to conserve energy in the construction and use of buildings, to ensure appropriate co-ordination and integration of physical, socio-economic and environmental planning, to make optimum use of the housing stock and to construct more housing, in particular to satisfy special housing needs. Social and demographic changes and

the aging of the population in most ECE countries will require special action to provide appropriate housing, social and service facilities.

32.39 In some countries, the output of the construction industry needs to be further expanded, while in other countries the main problem is to modify the structure and output of the building materials and construction industries, with a view to meeting the increasing demand for modernization and maintenance of existing buildings. All countries face the problem of rationalizing, improving and reformulating their building regulations on the basis of functional requirements and performance criteria.

32.40 International trade in construction products is of considerable importance as a means of improving quality and efficiency in construction and of reducing costs. Obstacles to such trade will need to be removed or reduced. There is also an increasing demand for facilities, in and outside towns, for leisure pursuits. International tourism can be expected to continue to expand in the 1990s. The land-use, environmental, transport and economic implications of increased activity in those areas will need to be studied as an intersectoral activity, with a view to formulating appropriate sectoral and intersectoral policies with regard to human settlements.

32.41 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To exchange information and experience on current and long-term developments in the field of human settlements, on urban and regional planning, on housing trends and policies, and on policies related to the development of the building materials and construction industries;

(b) To promote international co-operation in the field of urban and regional research, harmonize building regulations and standards, promote international trade in construction products, and collect, evaluate and publish internationally comparable statistics on housing, building and planning.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.42 The Secretariat will prepare and organize meetings and undertake studies on different aspects of urban and regional housing and building planning problems. The related findings will be published and disseminated among ECE members. Furthermore, country monographs containing information and experience on trends and policies concerning human settlements at the national level will be circulated with a view to exchanging such information, and seminars will be organized to elaborate recommendations for policies.

32.43 In the context of the preparation of the 1992 and 1996 conferences on urban and regional research, the Secretariat will assist in determining timely issues and preparing appropriate discussion papers.

SUBPROGRAMME 5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) Objectives

32.44 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 42/186 and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decision P (44).

32.45 Profound economic and technological changes have occurred in recent years in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well as in automation, which will continue to affect those industrial sectors - possibly even at an accelerated rate - during the next decade. Problems related to the supply of raw materials, technological developments, quality requirements, energy constraints, trade and competition will persist. The importance attached by Governments to making sustainable development the guiding principle in the interrelated objectives of economic growth, environmental protection and sound development within the region will have a significant impact on the way in which priorities are set in the study and solution of underlying problems affecting those industrial sectors. There will be a need for further structural adjustments as a result of intensified co-operation among countries at the subregional level and the emergence of increased production capacities in the newly-industrialized countries. Increased costs of undertaking fundamental and applied research will call for a strengthening of international co-operation.

32.46 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate co-operation in the ECE region in the industrial sectors pertaining to the steel, chemical and engineering industries and automation and to provide a framework wherein the member countries can exchange information and experience;

(b) To create conditions whereunder ECE members could develop a unified strategy for further diversification of the industry structure in order to enhance the economic and technological development of that sector in specific subregions.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.47 In line with those objectives, the Secretariat will undertake research and analyses of conditions and trends in the industrial sector of the region and will disseminate the findings among the members of ECE, with a view to elaborating the future industrial development strategy in the region. In that context, the Secretariat will prepare and publish (a) annual reviews on current developments and prospects, including international trade in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well as in automation; (b) biennial updates on steel scrap statistics; and (c) five-year periodic surveys of developments affecting the chemical industry and the engineering industries and automation, with special attention to the environmental and energy aspects of the production process in steel, chemicals and engineering, and statistics for sectors of the engineering industry that are of commercial importance. Studies will be undertaken on the importance of the quality of raw materials for the quality of finished steel products, on market trends and international trade in the above-mentioned sectors, and on selected economic, technological, environmental and resource issues. Work on the elaboration and dissemination of relevant statistics will continue, and seminars and study tours will be organized on selected issues of specific interest to countries of the region.

SUBPROGRAMME 6. INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

(a) Objectives

32.48 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Asembly resolutions 44/205 and 44/218; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/61, 1988/68 and 1989/118; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decisions L (44) and O (44).

32.49 The economic interdependence of ECE countries, the recent economic and foreign trade reforms adopted in the countries with centrally-planned economies and the development of the subregional integration process make it necessary for member countries to undertake periodic exchanges of information on trade trends, policies and problems and on changing forms of economic co-operation (such as joint ventures) in the region. National economic policies and structures have to be adjusted to changing external trade and payments conditions as well as to developments on the domestic markets in partner countries, especially those where forms are being introduced. Difficulties encountered by several member countries in financing their economic and trade development, and fluctuations in the volume, composition and terms of intraregional trade may induce Governments to resort to import restrictions, thus reducing trade opportunities. Identification of obstacles of all kinds to the development of intraregional trade is the first step in evaluating their impact on trade flows. Member countries that are developing from the economic point of view encounter special trade difficulties and are not as well equipped as other countries of the region to solve them. There is no forum, other than ECE, which provides an East-West framework for the multilateral exchange of experience among all the countries in the region on those issues, as well as on problems arising in specific types of transactions, such as counter-trade, or for particular classes of traders, such as small and medium-sized enterprises.

32.50 Development and exchange of transparent market information and experience, in such areas as marketing, financing techniques and improved business contacts, constitute important means for promoting intraregional trade. Substantial possibilities exist for publication and dissemination of information compiled by the Secretariat to assist Governments and business circles in their commercial contacts. Industrial co-operation (including joint ventures) constitutes also one of the means to ensure a steady expansion and diversification of intraregional trade.

32.51 Information accompanying goods in international trade or related to their payment has to be transferred between a number of parties, traditionally on a number of different paper documents. Cumbersome formalities and procedures pose a major impediment to trade, which can be eliminated or greatly reduced through harmonization of standards. The United Nations rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UN/EDIFACT), developed and maintained within the framework of the ECE Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, provide necessary standards to ensure world-wide harmonization in trade information interchange. Constant co-operation is needed with national and international institutions engaged in such activities. In the area of standardization, arrangements for the mutual acceptance of certificates of conformity are at present limited to bilateral agreements or arrangments between a limited group of countries. Testing and certification are major non-tariff barriers to international trade and they must be reduced by working out intergovernmental agreements that are as widely accepted as possible.

32.52 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) In the area of trade policy: to expand and diversify intraregional trade; to identify obstacles to the development of that trade and to elaborate and apply measures aimed at creating favourable conditions for its expansion and structural diversification; and to expand the trade, in particular the exports, of ECE member countries that are developing from the economic point of view;

(b) In the area of trade promotion: to create favourable conditions for industrial co-operation between countries in the ECE region and to help in the development and formulation of policies regarding industrial co-operation (including joint ventures), other forms of industrial co-operation and tripartite co-operation; and to promote development, exchange and dissemination of economic, commercial and administrative information relevant to trade, including marketing;

(c) In the area of trade facilitation: to reach agreements on basic standards for the facilitation of interchange of trade data - principally by means of electronic data interchange - and on standardization policies conducive to the elimination of technical obstacles to trade.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.53 The Secretariat will undertake periodic reviews and analyses of regional and interregional trade trends and issues and continue to publish new studies on changes in trade policies, development finance, compensation trade and trade in services. Particular attention will be paid to specific problems encountered by small and medium-sized enterprises and by member countries that are developing from the economic point of view. An inventory of all kinds of obstacles to trade will be kept up to date on the basis of notifications from Governments. Implications for trade of the economic reforms in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Eastern Europe will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on developing and exchanging information and experience in the field of trade and industrial co-operation, including joint ventures and marketing, and on the conditions favourable for foreign direct investments.

32.54 The Secretariat will continue to disseminate materials of assistance to Governments and to business circles in their commercial contacts. Further seminars on the subject will be held. Surveys and studies will be undertaken on trends and modalities of joint ventures, other forms of industrial co-operation, tripartite co-operation and the problems of creation and functioning of free economic zones.

32.55 In the area of standardization, the harmonization of standards and technical regulations with a view to facilitating trade and transport within the region will receive particular attention. Recommendations aimed at the promotion of international agreements and other appropriate arrangements on the acceptance of certificates of conformity with standards and technical regulations will be adopted.

32.56 In the area of facilitation of international trade procedures, new recommendations will be adopted. Trade Facilitation News will continue to be issued and UN/EDIFACT directories will be updated and disseminated regularly. New guides relating to contracts for international commercial transactions will be elaborated.

SUBPROGRAMME 7. ENERGY

(a) Objectives

32.57 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 42/186; Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/6; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decision D (44).

32.58 The period 1992-1997 of the medium-term plan is expected to be dominated by conflicting short-term and long-term developments. While for most of the time span and for most member countries energy is expected to be in ample supply, longer-term problems of oil substitution, import dependence, rational use of energy and energy conservation, pollution and climate change would gain momentum. Benefiting from short-term market opportunities, while not mortgaging future generations, appears to be the main issue for the medium-term plan period. Those and other developments affect the competitiveness of indigenous energy production in the region, particularly oil, coal and new sources of energy. The profitability of production and trade, particularly East-West energy trade, will decline despite continued progress in labour productivity and energy efficiency. Capacity growth will slow, as will investments into exploration and research activities. Government and industrial response strategies will emphasize the need to reduce costs, develop new markets and introduce more flexible management structures and methods.

32.59 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To develop and implement regional programmes of co-operation in the energy sector, geared to policy needs and sufficiently flexible to respond to new issues and market developments;

(b) To establish and refine internationally acceptable definitions, classifications, statistics, balances and databases;

(c) To formulate general recommendations on policy issues, such as the rational use of coal, gas and electricity, environmental protection and co-operative research.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.60 Apart from servicing the meetings and seminars approved by the various principal subsidiary bodies dealing with energy, the Secretariat will analyse trends and developments in the energy sector in the region, with particualr emphasis on demand, efficiency, acceptance and environmental impact of energy use. The related findings and recommendations will be disseminated to the members of the Commission and published, as appropriate.

SUBPROGRAMME 8. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) Objectives

32.61 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 44/14 and 44/236; Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/99; and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decision F (44).

32.62 Science and technology are recognized as being increasingly important factors in economic development. The processes whereby research and innovation take place and their impact on economic development, industrial infrastructure, productivity and investment patterns call for further analysis based on an exchange of information and experience among national policy-makers. The escalating costs of research and development and the increasingly limited availability of resources, coupled with the rapid pace and complexity of technological innovations, make it desirable for Governments to co-operate more closely in identifying new forms and directions of international scientific and technological co-operation, and in analysing and exchanging experience on emerging science and technology issues having a multidisciplinary character. So far, considerable differences exist among ECE countries with respect to the developments taking place in science and technology and in their respective systems of economic management, approaches of planning and business practices.

32.63 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To provide a forum for the exchange of information and experience among national authorities and decision makers on developments and changes in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions, including international science and technology agreements concluded among member countries with different economic and social systems, and on major scientific and technological trends and their implications; and a comparison of science and technology potential of the countries of the region;

(b) To provide conditions and avenues for the study of selected issues in science and technology, and to review changes in national science and technology policies and institutions.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.64 In the light of those objectives, the Secretariat will:

(a) Review major developments and changes in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions, including quadrennial reviews of changes in overall national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions;

(b) Take inventory of current bilateral agreements concluded among member countries of different economic and social systems, and prepare reviews and studies on medium- and long-term perspectives, current developments and selected issues in science and technology, including those related to the transfer of technology and the promotion of contacts among young scientists;

(c) Maintain and update the manual on licensing procedures and keep the members of the Commission informed in that respect;

(d) Disseminate information on selected issues in science and technology, in particular by organizing annual seminars for member Governments;

(e) Maintain an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology.

SUBPROGRAMME 9. TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

(a) Objectives

32.65 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 42/186; Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/104; and Economic Commission for Europe resolutions 1 (44) and decisions F (43), K (44), M (44) and N (44).

32.66 Economic growth and wealth depend to an increasing extent on the exchange between countries and the establishment of an international division of labour. It is a fact that production growth, trade and transport are closely interrelated. It is, however, in many respects a complex relationship, since transport, while being an essential supporting element of trade, also contributes to the generation of economic activities and exchanges.

32.67 In view of the close relationship between transport and the overall socio-economic framework, it is evident that any modification in one of the two areas has an impact on the other. Some of the recent changes that influence considerably the transport sector relate to the completion of the single market within the European Economic Community, the economic reform processes under way in Eastern Europe, new logistics approaches, as well as an increasing concern about the environment.

32.68 The establishment of a single market within EEC will involve the abolition of frontier controls of goods, the freedom of movement and settlement of people, the harmonization of technical and administrative standards and the liberalization of capital movements.

32.69 Changes in both the countries that have centrally-planned economies and in countries that have market economies will inevitably affect transport. In Eastern Europe, the transition from directive management to economic management will encourage the use of economic incentives. Those incentives will also be applied to implement transport policies and to determine the division of labour in the transport sector.

32.70 The structure of trade in goods and services is also changing. In relative terms, goods in bulk are declining, while intermediate manufactures are on the increase. Consignments of goods to be transported are becoming smaller. The value of goods per unit of mass or volume is becoming increasingly high. Industrial organization is improving and becoming more demanding in terms of logistical improvements (for example, just-in-time transport), the tendency being to integrate transport into the process of production and distribution.

32.71 International concerted action at the regional level is required, on the one hand, to plan and develop the necessary inland transport infrastructure and international transport links and, on the other, to provide adequate administrative support to facilitate the movement of goods and passengers across frontiers. Particular emphasis must therefore be laid at the intergovernmental level on the preparation of harmonized standards and technical requirements for all types of transport infrastructure and equipment, especially for combined transport, and on the development and introduction of electronic data processing at the international level to facilitate transport management and administrative procedures.

32.72 Transport affects the environment because of noise, air and water pollution and the use of the land. In some countries, the impact of transport operations, in particular road transport, on the environment has reached levels that are no longer acceptable. Growing awareness of environmental concerns will increasingly influence national transport policies in the years ahead and will require that adequate measures be taken.

32.73 Information on transport flows and trends along important European transport corridors, together with reliable and internationally comparable data on the structure and performance of the transport sector, needs to be compiled, analysed and disseminated on a regular basis, as such information is an indispensable tool for policy decisions in that area. Region-wide regular consultations and exchange of information among Governments are indispensable factors of co-operation.

32.74 The development of new technologies, particularly in electronics and telecommunications, will open new possibilities for improving the efficiency of transport and communications and for further strengthening of tourism; it will, however, create new problems in relation to the standardization of equipment and the safety of transport and communications operations.

32.75 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To strengthen co-operation among Governments in formulating and implementing co-ordinated and homogenous transport, communications and tourism policies, particularly with regard to infrastructure planning;

(b) To monitor and analyse traffic flows on important European transport corridors;

(c) To promote the dissemination of data and information relevant for policy-makers and for transport, communications and tourism industries;

(d) To elaborate and promote harmonized technical regulations and standards in areas such as construction of motor vehicles, traffic regulations and transport of dangerous goods;

(e) To update existing international instruments and to prepare new ones in line with the rapid evolution of transport in the region. That objective includes public and private law aspects and covers technical as well as customs and other administrative documentation and procedures concerning road, rail and inland water transport;

(f) To promote international co-operation in limiting the negative environmental impact of transport in general and of road transport in particular.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.76 The secretariat of ECE will carry out research and analyses concerning the current and expected evolution of international traffic flows aimed at assessing the demand for transport services and the structure and performance of the transport industry. It will review and evaluate trends and developments in specific transport areas and prepare studies and promote activities aimed at improving transport safety and road traffic safety.

32.77 The secretariat will assist ECE and other intergovernmental bodies in formulating comprehensive strategies aimed at the development of coherent and efficient transport, communications and tourism systems in the region.

32.78 The secretariat will continue to administer a large number of legal instruments, regulations and recommendations, some of which are applied world wide, concerning the organization and management of international transport, communications and tourism and will, according to needs, contribute to the elaboration of new legal instruments in the light of identified needs and requirements.

32.79 It will maintain and strengthen contacts with other regional commissions to ensure consistency of transport policies and requirements on a world-wide basis and to make available existing expertise and experience in that sector to other regions and interested intergovernmental bodies.

32.80 The secretariat will continue to service regular meetings of relevant intergovernmental bodies, organize seminars and symposia, provide assistance to a number of administrative bodies established under various international instruments and disseminate the results achieved through those activities in order to encourage the implementation of common transport policies and measures. It will assist in the collection, compilation and distribution, in particular through meetings, seminars and symposia, of statistical and other information concerning international transport, communications and tourism.

SUBPROGRAMME 10. STATISTICS

(a) Objectives

32.81 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/3 and Economic Commission for Europe resolution 1 (44) and decision C (44).

32.82 The subprogramme addresses the problem of conceptual and methodological development of statistical services of the region to meet better the needs for timely, consistent and comparable statistics for policy design and monitoring in economic, social and environmental fields, for analysis of policy implementation, for fostering international economic co-operation and for research purposes. During the medium-term plan period, the problems facing statistical offices of those member countries in transition from centrally-planned to market-economy-type management will also require attention, as will the problems emerging for statistical services in connection with integration processes and other processes of co-operation.

32.83 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To adapt internationally available statistical standard recommendations to the conditions of transition countries, focusing on national accounts, statistics of foreign trade, price statistics, financial statistics, labour force statistics and selected social and demographic statistics;

(b) To develop further the conceptual basis for the accelerated introduction of environment and natural resource statistics into national practices;

(c) To strengthen the co-ordination of all statistical activities of international institutions active in the region;

(d) To develop suitable instruments aiming at the reduction of response burden for member countries, while improving international comparability of statistics published in key areas;

(e) To provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on all matters relating to the organization and operation of statistical services.

(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

32.84 In view of those objectives, the Secretariat will:

(a) Act as a "clearing house" for specific projects arising in the current transition processes;

(b) Organize and service the meetings convened by the Conference of European Statisticians;

(c) Contribute to the improvement of division of labour between intergovernmental institutions in utilizing intersecretariat working groups and other efficient forms of statistical co-operation;

(d) Continue the compilation and publication of internationally comparable, timely and consistent statistical data and further develop the ECE statistical database.